



FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE JURY

European Bee Award 2026



With continued evidence of alarming species declines across the globe, the case for protecting our biodiversity and the ecosystem functions it supports has never been stronger. We need to act, and to find solutions that work with nature rather than against it, so that the services biodiversity provides are sustained and protected for future generations. As part of this living fabric, bees and other pollinating insects make a vital contribution to crop production and to the pollination of wild plants. With the support of John Deere, the European Landowners' Organization is proud to present the European Bee Award — established in 2014 and now in its second decade — a prize that celebrates positive actions to protect and promote pollinators.

This year the Award recognises achievement across four categories: *Land management practices*; *Innovative technological and digital solutions*; *Community action*; and *Biological solutions*. The interventions we hope to see are wonderfully varied, managing land in ways that benefit pollinators, improving the availability of flowers and other resources they depend on, applying new technologies, machinery and biological methods that ease the pressures of farming, and bringing communities together around a shared cause. The independent jury takes a deliberately broad view, welcomes novel and innovative ideas, and considers practices that benefit wild bees and other pollinators as well as managed species such as honeybees.

The jury will select a winner in each of the four categories. From among these four winners, the jury will then choose one outstanding project to receive the monetary prize of €4,000, while the remaining category winners will each be honoured with a diploma of recognition. Every winning project will be celebrated at the Award Ceremony in Brussels and shared widely through our communication channels.

In choosing the category winners, the jury weighs how much difference an intervention makes, how novel it is, and how readily it can be scaled and adopted across Europe. We look for evidence of effectiveness, for practicality and compatibility with real farming, and we give extra weight to ideas that also benefit non-pollinator biodiversity. In then deciding which single project receives the monetary prize, the jury looks for where the award will make the greatest difference.

Prof. Michael Garratt
President of the Jury